

**METHOD FOR DETERMINING A MASS AIRFLOW**Abstract

- 5 In a method for determining a mass airflow in an air duct using a mass airflow sensor, sensor signals at successive times, indicating the magnitude of the mass airflow, are captured and, using a characteristic curve for the mass airflow sensor, corresponding values are determined for the mass air-  
10 flow. In doing so, a time series of signals is subjected to a vibration analysis, which determines a fundamental vibration and at least one prescribed harmonic vibration of the fundamental vibration, and the existence of a backflow is established if the ratio of the strength of the harmonic vibration  
15 to the strength of the fundamental vibration exceeds a prescribed threshold value.